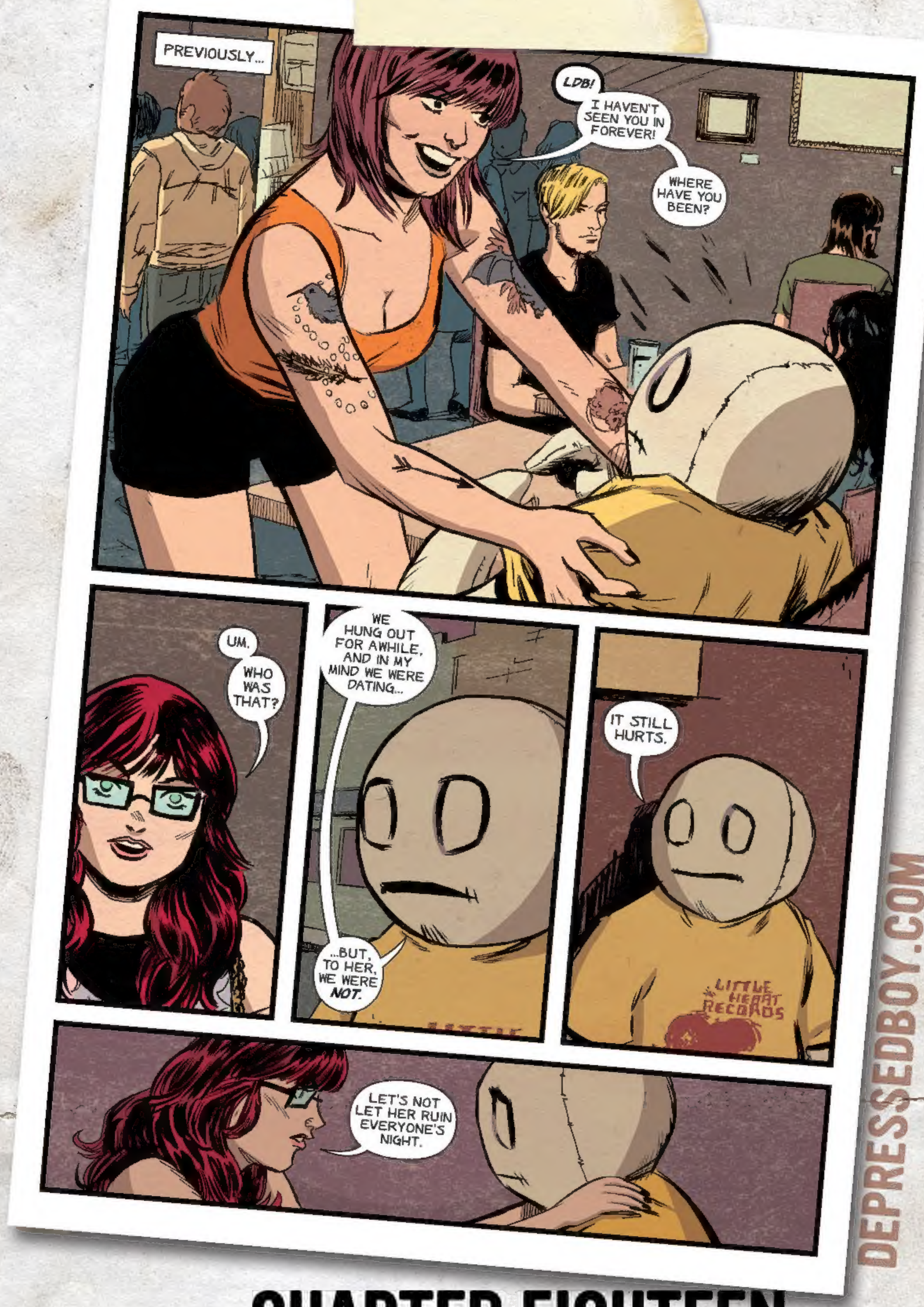
image®

SHAUN STEVEN STRUBLE + SINA GRACE

THE LI'L DEPRESSED BOY™

NUMBER TWO

SUPPOSED TO BE THERE, TOO


PREVIOUSLY...
LDB!
I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU IN FOREVER!
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?
UM.
WHO WAS THAT?
WE HUNG OUT FOR AWHILE, AND IN MY MIND WE WERE DATING...
...BUT, TO HER, WE WERE NOT.
IT STILL HURTS.
LITTLE HEART RECORDS
LET'S NOT LET HER RUIN EVERYONE'S NIGHT.
DEPRESSEDBOY.COM

CHAPTER EIGHTEEN

"I RAISE MY FIST"

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YEAH.
I'M STILL READING MY WAY THROUGH HAMMETT.
YOU'VE BEEN READING THOSE FOR AWHILE.
HOW MANY DO YOU HAVE LEFT?
JUST ONE NOVEL, THE GLASS KEY.
SO I'VE BEEN CONCENTRATING ON THE SHORT STORIES AT THE MOMENT.
I'M TRYING TO TAKE MY TIME, BUT I READ WOMAN IN THE DARK IN JUST AN HOUR AND A HALF LAST NIGHT.
I'M GONNA MISS 'EM WHEN I FINISH.
LITTLE HEART RECORDS
IS HE YOUR FAVORITE AUTHOR?
YEAH!
THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT HOW HE MIXED THE MUNDANE, DAY-TO-DAY OF DETECTIVE WORK WITH HUMOR AND ACTION.
I ESPECIALLY LOVE THE CONTINENTAL OP.

WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN READING?

LITTLE HEART RECORDS

NAME OF THE WIND.

BY PATRICK ROTHFUS.

IT'S HARD TO EXPLAIN WHY IT IS SO WONDERFUL.

ON THE SURFACE IT'S STANDARD FANTASY -- BUT HE TAKES SUCH PRIDE IN WORLD BUILDING AND THE MAGIC IS SO CAREFULLY USED -- IT HAS RULES AND A SYSTEM.

IT'S JUST A FANTASTIC, IMMERSIVE EXPERIENCE.

SOUNDS GOOD.

I'LL HAVE TO ADD IT TO MY TO-READ LIST.

IT'S BEEN FOREVER SINCE I HAVE READ ANYTHING BUT A TEXT BOOK.

I MISS READING FOR FUN.

I'M JEALOUS OF THE BOTH OF YOU.

I'LL CATCH UP WITH YOU GUYS.

SO, WHAT DID YOU THINK OF THE SHOW?

I'M GOING TO BE DOING IT FOUR TIMES A DAY FOR THE NEXT COUPLE OF MONTHS, SO I'M TRYING TO GET IT PERFECT.

IT WAS VERY GOOD.

THE STUNTS WERE IMPRESSIVE, AND YOU WERE VERY FUNNY.

I WON'T LIE TO YOU, DREW.

IT WAS HARD NOT TO KEEP MY EYES CLOSED THE WHOLE TIME.

BUT WHAT I DID SEE WAS SOME OF THE BEST STUFF YOU'VE EVER DONE.

THANKS.

THIS IS A BIG BREAK FOR ME AND I WANT TO MAKE SURE I DO IT RIGHT.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, BUD. YOU'RE GONNA KILL.

YOU SURE YOU TWO DON'T WANT COME OVER?

WE'RE GONNA PLAY SOME BOARD GAMES.

UNFORTUNATELY, I HAVE CLASS IN THE MORNING.

NEXT TIME, THOUGH.

WHEN YOU'RE BACK IN TOWN.

LITTLE HEART RECORDS

WELL, IT WAS GREAT FINALLY MEETING YOU, SPIKE.

YOU TOO, DREW.

IT'S NICE TO HAVE A FACE TO GO WITH ALL THE STORIES.

YOU GET MY BUDDY HOME ALRIGHT.

WILL DO.

TONIGHT WAS HARD BUT IT TURNED OUT TO BE FUN IN THE END.

WHEN JAZZ SHOWED UP, I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.

SHE REALLY MESSED ME UP LAST YEAR.

THANKS FOR NOT LETTING ME RUN AWAY.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.

THERE ARE PEOPLE IN MY PAST I'D WANT TO RUN FROM.

I, UH, BETTER LET YOU GO.

YOU'VE GOT SCHOOL IN THE MORNING.

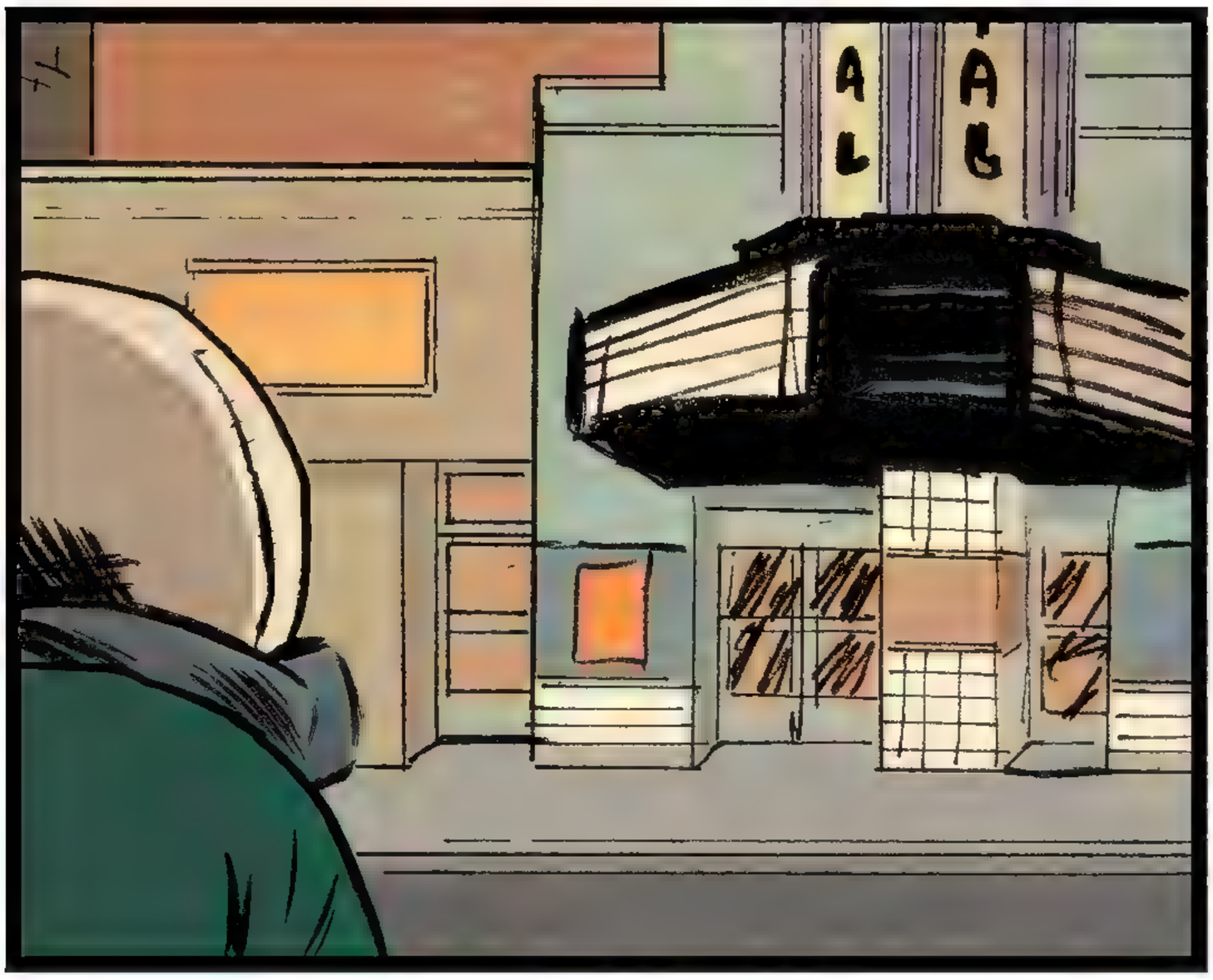
YEAH.

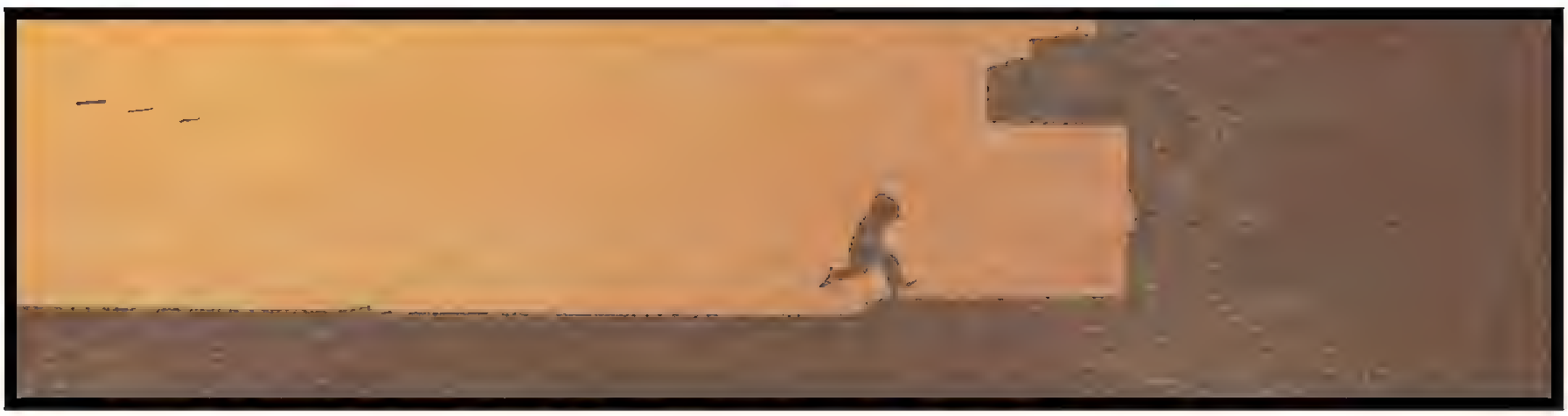
GOOD LUCK TOMORROW!

LITTLE HEART RECORDS

TAP!
TAP!

*"HOT DAD CALENDAR" -- CAYETANA





HEY, LDB.
HEY, ROCKY.
WHO ARE THE MANAGERS TODAY?

CARL.
SIGH

THANKS.

THIRD TIME'S A CHARM...

WELL, LOOK WHO IS MR. BIGSHOT NOW!

GUESS YOU'RE NOT A GRUNT ANYMORE!

CONGRATULATIONS ON THE PROMOTION.

YEAP.

LOOKS LIKE I CAN'T SHIRK DAGGUM RESPONSIBILITY FOREVER.

THANKS, MAN.

SO WHAT YOU DOING HERE, TODAY?

DON'T YOU HAVE UNSCHEDULED TIME OFF?

FORGOT MY CHECK.

PLUS, I NEED TO TALK TO CARL.

I HATE TO ASK, MAN, BUT WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR EYE?

OH.

TOBY PUNCHED ME.

WHAT?!

DUDE, YOU *DO* NEED TO TALK TO CARL.

YEAH.

IS HE UP IN THE OFFICE?

IT'S OPEN.

MR. BRANGET?

CAN I SPEAK TO YOU FOR A MINUTE?

WHAT IS IT?

WELL, SIR...

UM.

AS I WAS LEAVING HERE THE OTHER DAY...

AFTER YOU PUT US ON SUSPENSION...

WELL, WE WERE LEAVING AND...

AND?!

TOBY ATTACKED ME IN THE PARKING LOT.

-- HE PUNCHED ME.

THAT'S A PRETTY BIG ACCUSATION, SON.

WILL YOU STICK AROUND WHILE I CALL TOBY IN AND GET HIS SIDE OF THE STORY?

YES.

ZIGZAGS of TREACHERY

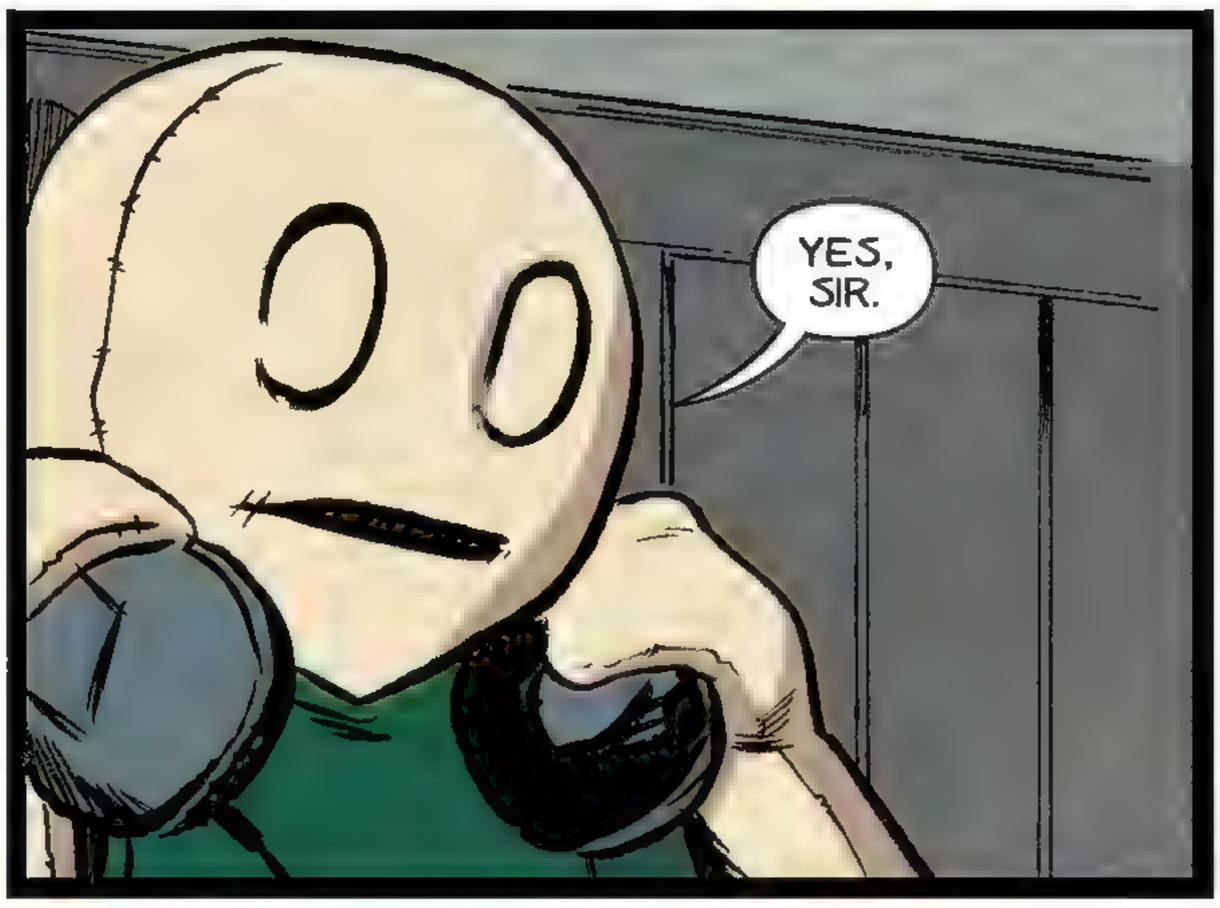
CARL?

YOU WANTED TO SPEAK TO ME?

LDB, COULD YOU WAIT OUT IN THE HALL?

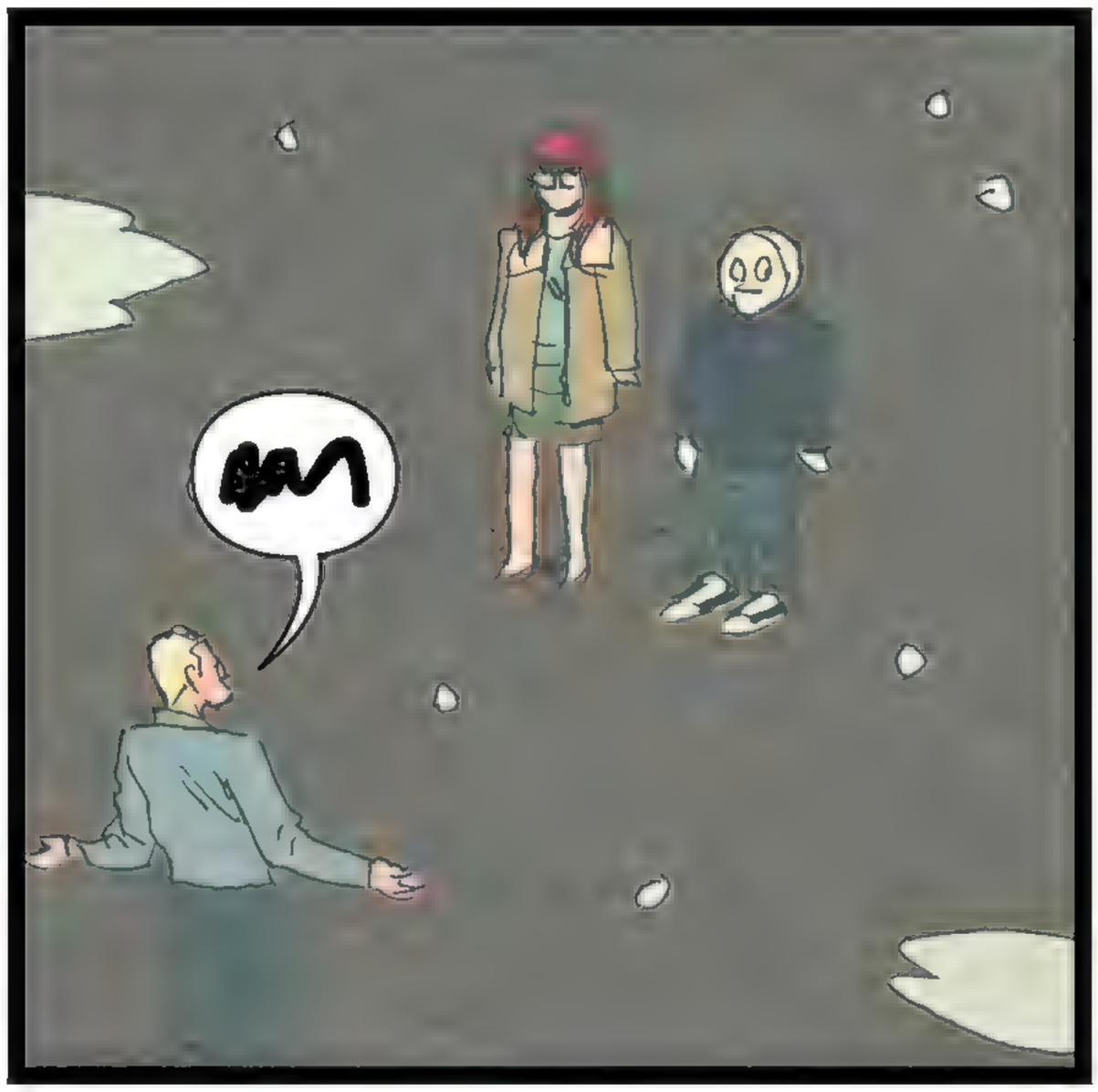
TOBY, PLEASE SIT DOWN.

WOULD YOU STEP BACK IN, PLEASE?


YES, SIR.

OKAY.

LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENED.



PAUSED

I TOLD YOU.

NOTHING HAPPENED.

HE IS JUST TRYING TO GET BACK AT ME.

...

YOU *HIT* ME!

I DIDN'T GIVE MYSELF A BLACK EYE, TOBY.

HEY, CLIPPED-WING.

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO DISLOCATED HIS SHOULDER CLEANING A TRASHCAN.

COOL IT, YOU TWO.

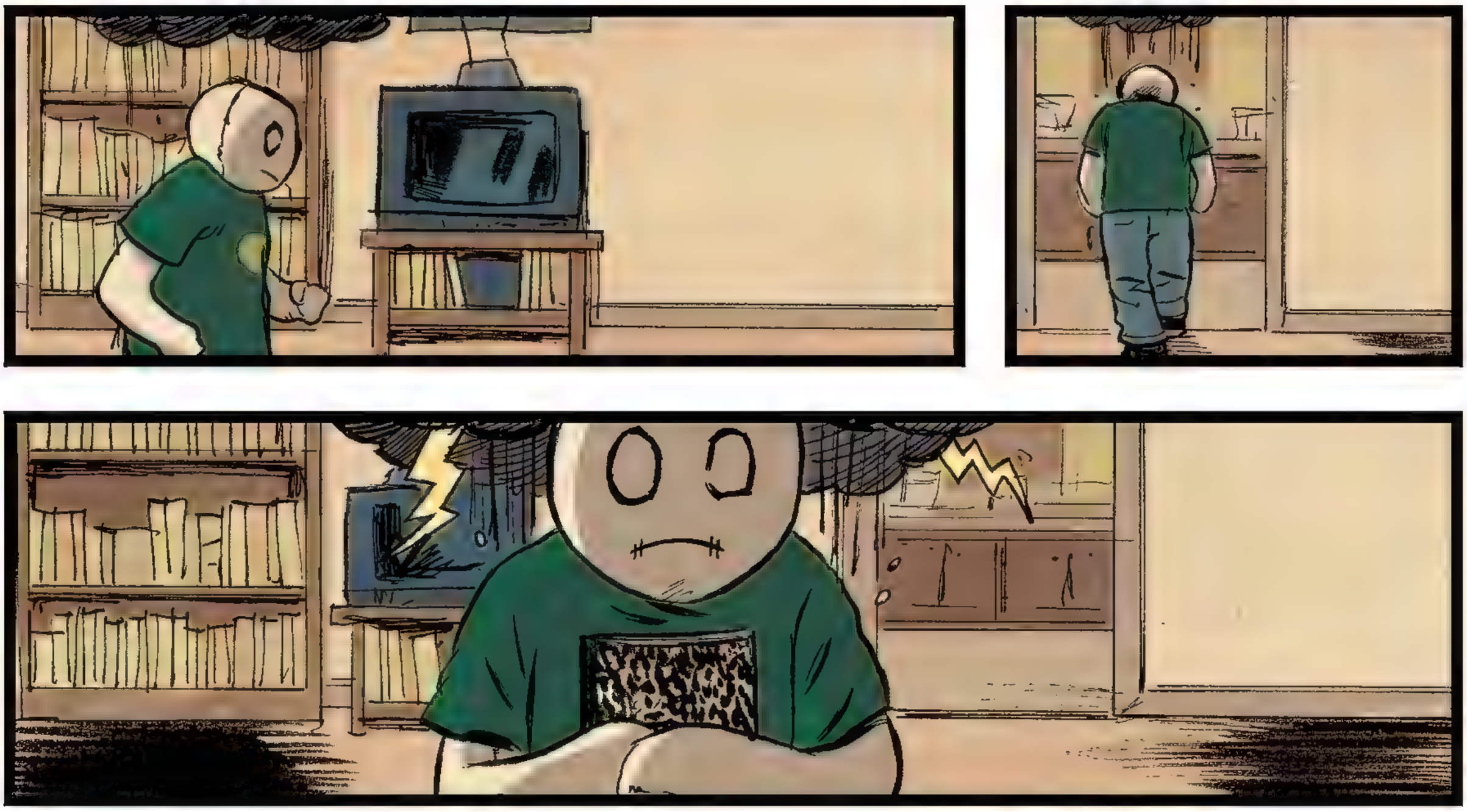
AS FAR AS THE SECURITY VIDEO SHOWS, NOTHING HAPPENED --

AT LEAST NOT ON THEATRE PROPERTY.

THERE IS NOTHING I CAN DO HERE.

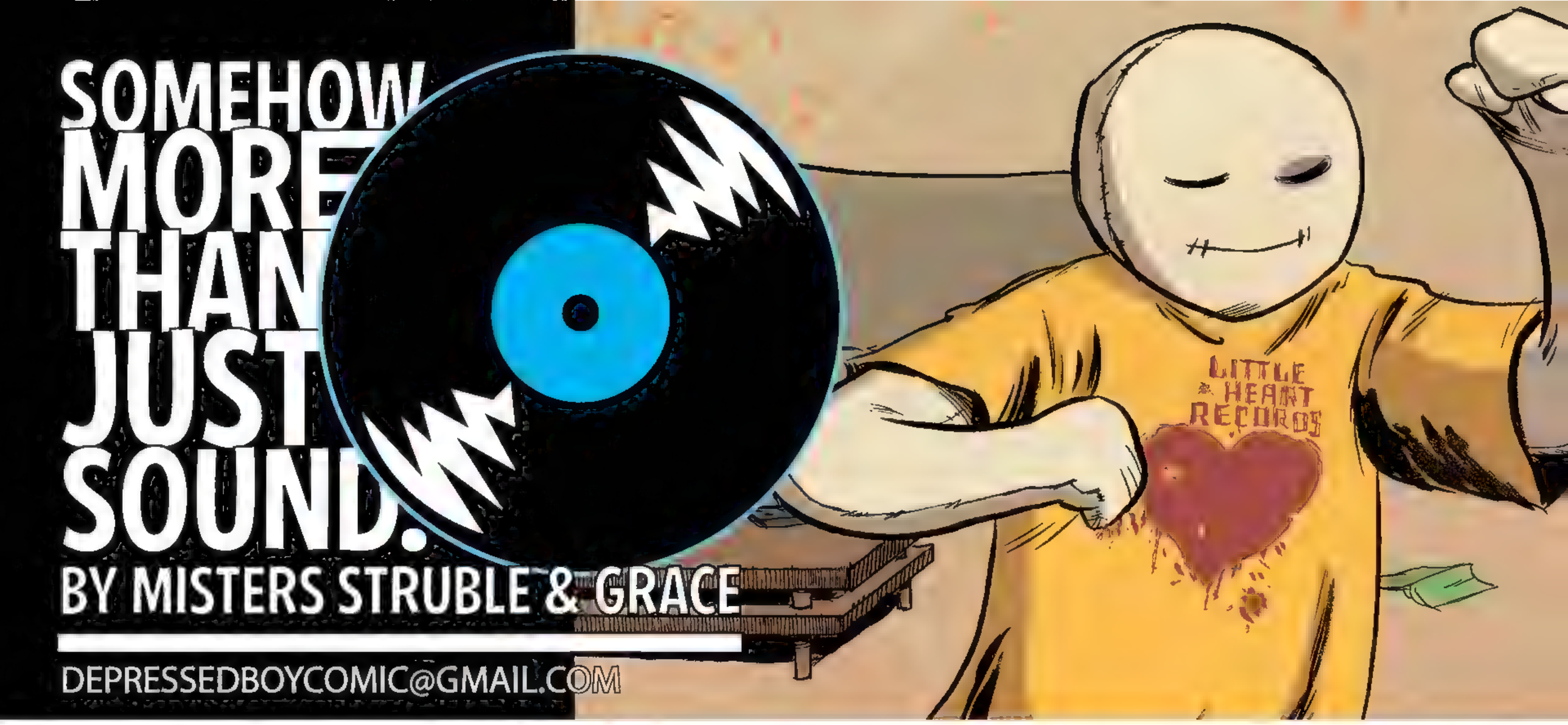
WHATEVER YOUR PROBLEM IS, YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO SETTLE IT AMONG YOURSELVES AND ON YOUR OWN TIME.

WHAT THE?!



THIS IS MY TWO WEEKS NOTICE.

--LDB



Welcome back, readers!

Our first month out has been nothing short of awesome. We've both done some shows, and the reaction we get from you all has been a great reminder for why we make the book. Lotsa love going around. There are loads of letters in about our return to the stands, so let's dive in!

I've waited a long time for LDB to be back. I'm really glad your book is here again. I don't follow many comic books nowadays, mostly because most companies seem more interested in pushing big events and multiple covers instead of solid storytelling. LDB gives us that. Here, story comes first. You know you can get any LDB issue and you won't be disappointed. I just want to say, that I'm here for as long as it lasts (and I hope it lasts many, many years).

Ju-An No-Ying Mar

Thank you for the compliments...

THOMAS182, DEVIANTART

MR_SNADELESS, INSTAGRAM

but are you going to be mad when we do our year-end crossover with G.I.Joe? :)

Li'l Depressed Boy always reminds me I'm not alone in how I feel and relate to the world. It so honest in its portrayal of the awkwardness that comes with interpersonal relationships. Put simply, this book groks me, and I it.

John Lewis Jr.

Put simply: You grok us. Love ya, John.

Hi guys,

A little piece I did 2 years ago. I was going through a really rough patch in my life and I happened to find ldb just at the right time. Reading them was like seeing someone else going through the same things I was, and every issue seemed to weirdly fit with what was happening in my life. Going back home and thinking about old loves, needing to get away with a friend like drew, starting a new job and finally finding a girl like spike. So just wanted to say thank you. These stories really helped me out. Keep up the amazing work.

Love Robin x

Thanks for your wonderful contribution, Robin. Your words fuel us through tough times, so please know that we're in this together, trying to bring more smiles to the world.

Not really saying much, but I love LDB as a person. He's every funny sad dude you know, even down to the wicked awesome taste in zombies and music. I dig it, he reminds me of Gambino for some weird reason sometimes, and I can understand his thoughts since I've felt and said them before. LDB? You're a cool ass lil dude, stay dope.

Bruno Luz

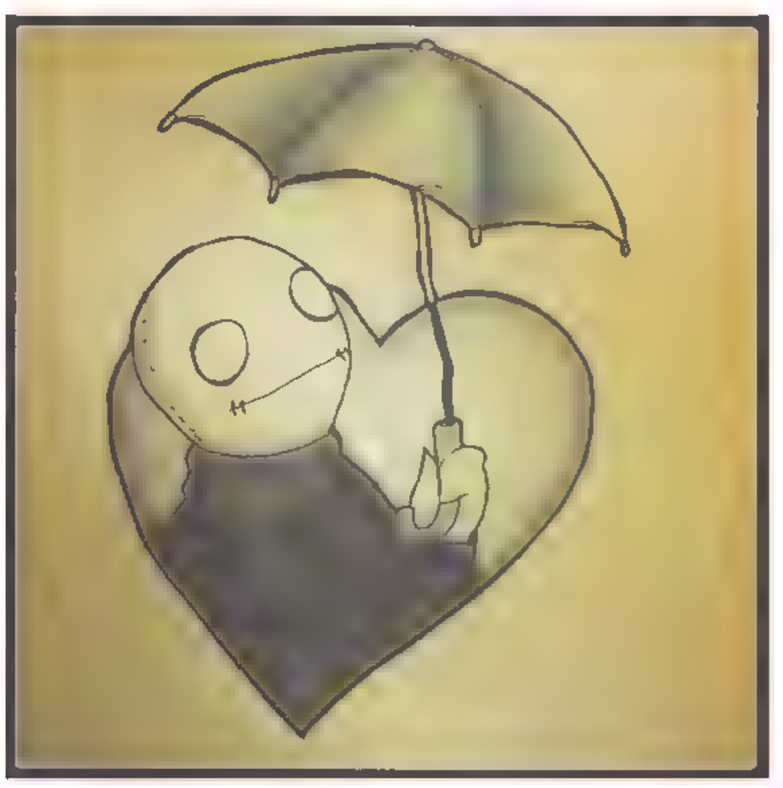
We're so dope that Sina got it tattoo'd on his hand (no joke). Thanks for the kind words of support!

I knew LDB was going to be one of my favorites when I saw a kid dressed up as Tootie for Halloween. The pop culture references *slay* me!

Please let LDB and Spike stay together! We talkative, curly-haired gingers have to stick together!

Ginny Romney

LDB and Spike have a mutual love and respect for each other. We hope that's stronger than Jazz popping up, or any other wrenches life throws in the mix.



TIFFANY PECH, INSTAGRAM

Just finished reading the new issue today on my lunch break at work and so glad LDB is back! Appreciated having Burn the Orphanage to read during the hiatus.

Mark C. Shelton

Thanks, Mark. We used to joke that LDB and BTO are pretty similar because at their core, they're both about friendship, music, and video games!

I'm glad you are back old friend. I'm super sad when you are gone.

Vani Ferguson

Keep that frown upside down! There's more story to come! P.S. Congratulations to you and Ian on your recent nuptuals!

Me and the gf both love ldb and are super glad it's back!! Just keep up the great work and oh will there ever be a plush ldb doll for release? I would buy one instantly. Can't wait for the next issue!

Julio Fernandez

We want to have one made for the masses, too, Julio! We're working on it, but in the meantime we get to cuddle with the delightful plush dolls Vani made especially for us. <3

LDB, you were gone too long. Thank you for the glorious return!

Brian W. Castro

All good things in time, right?

Li'l Depressed Boy seems to always capture a moment beyond its pages and apply to Something that has happen in my life this Was the first comic I was able to relate To as a human with low self esteem along with other things this comic gives me the courage to be myself

Dave Good

SAINTYAK, DEVIANTART

RAYMONDJFOX, DEVIANTART

Awesome to hear, Dave. It's not easy being brave, but we hope that the book can contribute to everyone coming out of their shells a little bit.

I love LDB! This comic has sparked some of my greatest ideas for fun and adventure. (For instance kit flying at night) LDB, is so that everybody friend kind of character. No wonder a Jersey girl, feeling like an outsider in Philadelphia can relate to him so well. Great mellow comic! I plan to continue my BookNerd collection of LDB adventures!

Lorna Satchwell

Thanks so much for the kind words, Lorna! You keep LDB in your BookNerd collection, and we'll keep makin' them! Glad to hear we've got a Li'l Depressed Boy & Girls club going on.

How many licks does it take to get to the center of a tootsie roll tootsie pop? No seriously, how many?!

James M L Parker

ROBIN, FACEBOOK

Let's approach this scientifically. What constitutes a lick? Just touching your tongue to the lolly or a long drag across the whole thing? After we've figured that out, we need to put together a clinical trial and collect data from various people. Once we average that, we should finally have the answer to this question.

Ok watched the Secret Lives of Dorks the other day, yea i'm way too old all that nonsense but hey a nice nod to Li'l Depressed Boy.....

Ronald J Curell

Hey! Editor and dear friend Nicholas D. Brandt wrote that movie! Fart jokes n' all. :)

Love that the comic is back can't wait for the next issue and the next one.

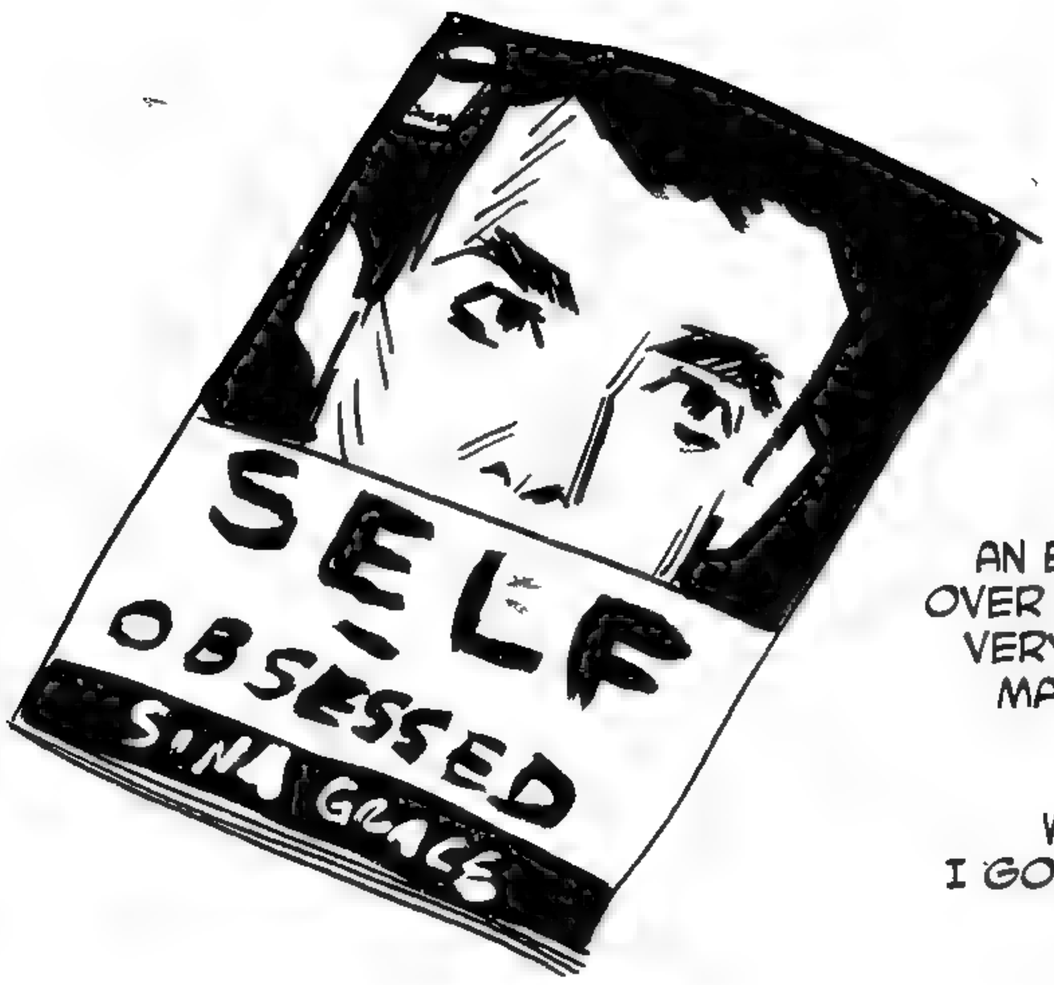
Philip Enas

Thanks, Philip! We want to wish you a happy belated birthday, too!

That's it for now. Join us again next month as things continue to percolate in the world of LDB. Also: LEMURIA!!!!??
AND: Don't forget to visit the LDB webstore for your pick at exclusive merch! Shirts, books, foreign editions— we've got it all! http://depressedboy.bigcartel.com
PEZ and Pixie Stix,
Struble & Sina

The Li'l Depressed Boy
P.O. Box 835091
Richardson, TX
75083

NEXT TIME:
To escape all the recent drama, the Li'l Depressed Boy and Spike run off for a day of fun and music. Featuring an appearance by Bridge Nine recording artist LEMURIA!



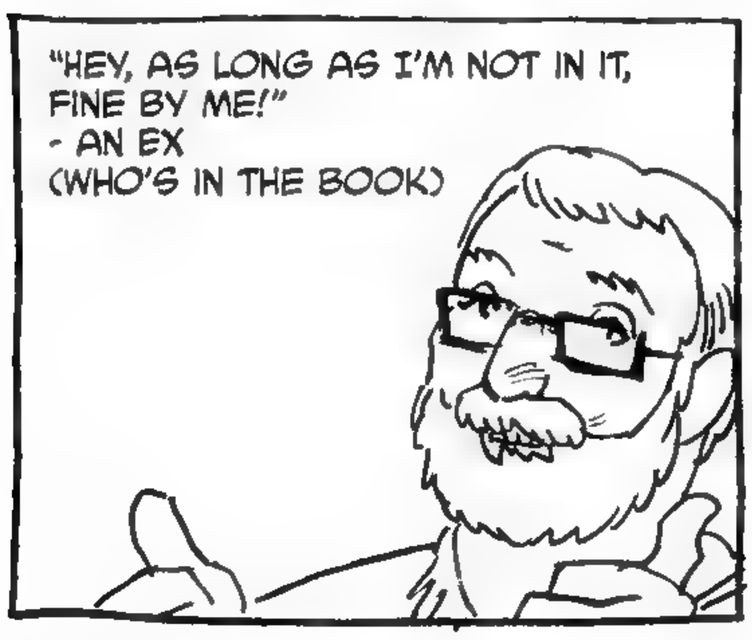
BACK IN APRIL, I RELEASED A ONE-SHOT THAT COLLECTED A LOAD OF AUTOBIO STRIPS, GOING AS FAR BACK AS MY DAYS IN HIGH SCHOOL.

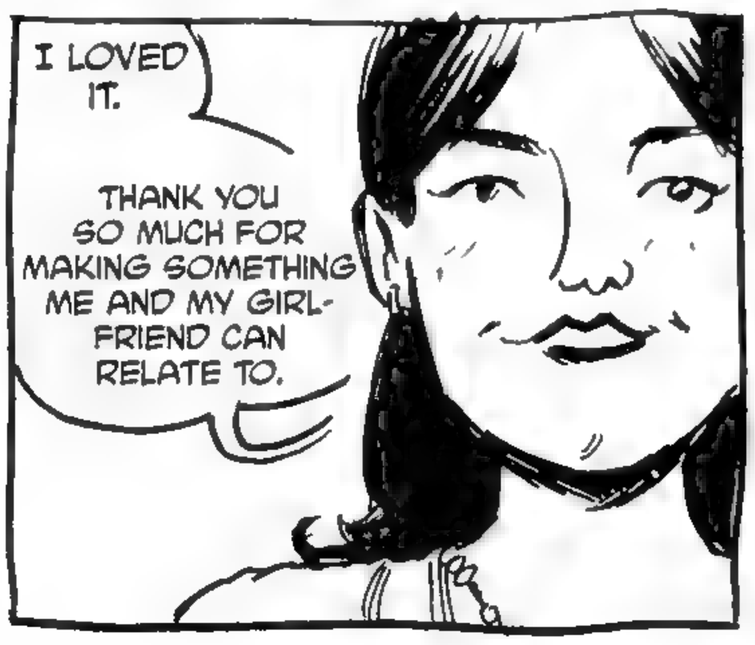
AN EXPERIMENT IN SHOWING THE GROWTH OF AN ARTIST OVER A DECADE OF SELF-QUESTIONING, I THOUGHT AT THE VERY LEAST PEOPLE WOULD GET A KICK OUT OF SEEING MATERIAL THAT HAS PRETTY MUCH BEEN UNAVAILABLE FOR YEARS.

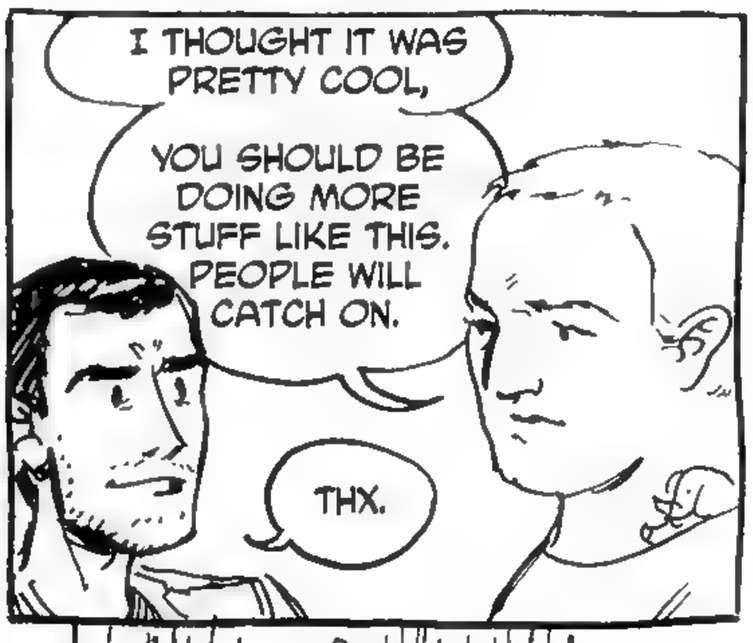
WHILE I CAN SAY THAT I'M PROUD OF THE BOOK, I GOT A SLEW OF DIFFERENT RESPONSES FROM FRIENDS, FAMILY, AND COMPLETE STRANGERS!

So, how did people react??

*the view from an Artist Alley table







GET ON IT!
STOP DRAWING ACTION BOOKS & FOCUS ON YOU!
Friggin' Brandon and friggin' friends...
He must love the attention!*
Does he do storyboards ???
(I really don't, it's just a bad habit I developed in college.)

One time my friend Emi and I were chatting, and we approached the subject of fame. She said...

"UGH, WHO'D WANT TO BE FAMOUS? THAT SEEMS LIKE THE WORST!"

"I KNOW, RIGHT!?"

Except... I'm always thinking about:

Fame

or is it...
- acclaim?
- relevance??
- notoriety ???

Why am I so drawn to being received as a public figure?
Is this all just a bizarre way to feel popular?

IF I WANTED TO BE FAMOUS FOR THE MONEY, WELL... WOULD I BE DOING CREATOR-OWNED COMICS THAT HAVE THE LONGEST TITLES AND STRANGEST CONCEPTS?

Gina Grace in... Passive Manipulation

WHEN I WAS A LITTLE BOY, I WOULD DO WHATEVER IT TOOK TO GET WHAT I WANTED, EVEN IF IT MEANT BEING A LITTLE MANIPULATIVE WITH MY MOM.

I'LL NEVER EVER ASK FOR ANOTHER!!

I JUST NEED TRINI TO HAVE THE WHOLE TEAM!

PLEASE!?

MY MOM WAS NO FOOL, AND FIGURED MY WAYS OUT PRETTY QUICK... SHE DIDN'T TAKE TOO KINDLY TO IT, EITHER.

YOU DIDN'T TELL ME THERE WERE GIRLS AT THAT SLEEPOVER!*

WHATEVER!

YOU KNOW, YOU ARE SO MANIPULATIVE!

TO WHICH I'D SAY:

I LEARNED IT FROM YOU !!!**

* LOL

** ULTIMATE BURN

FLASH FORWARD TO THE PRESENT, WHEN I FINALLY DECIDED TO GET A DOG...

SO, MOM... INSTEAD OF GETTING ME A BIRTHDAY GIFT, COULD YOU PAY T THE ADOPTION FEES FOR A DOG?

IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT, YOU'D BE GETTING ME THE DOG YOU WANTED...

TO WHICH SHE SAID:

OKAY, HOW MUCH?

SO, THANKS FOR BEING A RAD MOM ALL THESE YEARS! HAPPY BIRTHDAY...

I LOVE YOU!

THX!

comparison is the thief of joy

Being single was the pits.
I remember that every time I thought I met a dude who was a great fit, he would promptly walk off into the sunset with someone else.
At first, I was able to shake it off pretty easy...

But it kept happening...

Over and over again.

Seemingly with the same kind of guy!

Upon talking about a specific example of being rejected for a "better" version of me...

Look at this jerk. He's everything that I'm not! Let me count the ways I feel inferior to this cheerleader for inferiority complexes...

* Perfect hair/ beard
* Cute/ ugly nose that works
* Just the right amount of chest hair
* Manages to pull off dude jewelry
* Always smells like sandalwood (whatever that is)
* Has some stupid "cool" job developing apps
* Looks good smoking cigarettes
* Owns a three-legged dog
* Can make dress shoes w/o socks work

Oddly Normal™

by Otis Frampton

image

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ONCE UPON A TIME
ON THE DAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS,
A YOUNG GIRL NAMED PENNY DORA FOUND
A MYSTERIOUS BOX ON HER DOORSTEP . . .

PENNY DORA

AND THE WISHING BOX

IMAGECOMICS.COM

RATED T / TEEN

FROM
MICHAEL STOCK
AND
SINA GRACE

WISHES DO COME TRUE, THIS NOVEMBER FROM IMAGE COMICS!

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I prefer Empire, a Tablet + 2 Women.
Stay reading Digital my Friends